

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02965 121713 Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 FAA-00 COME-00 RSR-01

RSC-01 /057 W

----- 053177

P R 121507 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9114

INFO FAA BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2965

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN , NI

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF NIGERIAN PILOTS

DEPT . PASS FAA WASHDC

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS URGENT REQUEST FOR FAA CERTIFICATION OF GROUP OF NIGERIAN PILOTS WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED 737 TRANSITION TRAINING AT BOEING, SEATTLE. PROBLEM URGENT BECAUSE PILOTS ARE NEEDED TO HELP KEEP TWO NEW 737' S IN SERVICE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TWO LETTER (COPIES AIR POUCHED AF/ NI) THIS WEEK FROM ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION OGUNBIYI AND FROM DEPUTY PERMSEC OBI RESPECTIVELY REQUESTING URGENT HELP IN THE CERTIFICATION OF NIGERIAN PILOTS WHO RECENTLY UNDERTOOK A TRAINING COURSE IN SEATTLE TO QUALIFY ON THE BOEING 737' S RECENTLY PROCURED BY NIGERIAN AIRWAYS. OPERATIONAL PARTS OF OBI LETTER READ AS FOLLOWS:

(WE ARE REQUESTING) " ORAL AND FLIGHT TESTS BY FAA FOR OUR NIGERIAN PILOTS WHO UNDERTOOK A TRAINING COURSE IN SETATTLE (UNDER THE BOEING AIRLINE GROUP) ON THE B-737 AIRCRAFT. PILOTS RETURNED TO NIGERIA RECENTLY WITHOUT THE USUAL FAA- TYPE RATING.

". AS YOU ARE AWARE, NIGERIA AIRWAYS HAS JUST TAKEN DELIVERY OF 2 B-737 AIRCRAFT AND UNLESS THESE NIGERIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 02965 121713 Z

PILOTS ARE TESTED BY FAA THEY CANNOT BE ISSUED WITH NIGERIAN LICENCES TO OPERATE THE AIRCRAFT. IT IS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE BOARD OF NIGERIA AIRWAYS THAT WE SHALL NOW SEEK TO EMPLOY EXPATRIATE CREW TO OPERATE THESE AIRCRAFT. THE POSITION IS THEREFORE, EXTREMELY URGENT."

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE,

(SIGNED)

F. M. OBI

3. OGUNBIYI' S LETTER SYAS FAA CERTIFICATION BEING REQUESTED FOR NINE PILOTS WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED BOEING TRAINING COURSE IN SEATTLE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT TWO OTHER PILOTS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN FAA TEST IN SEATTLE AND ONE OF THEM PASSED. WHEN 30- DAY WAITING PERIOD EXPIRES, NIGERIANS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REQUEST RE-TESTING FOR THE ONE WHO FAILED, SO THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A TOTAL OF TEN. WE WILL FORWARD NAMES OF APPLICANTS ON RECEIPT.

4. IRVING MATTHEWS, BOEING CAPTAIN WHO HAS JUST DELIVERED ONE OF 737' S, TELLS US THAT ALL APPLICANTS ACTUALLY WENT THROUGH TRANSITION TRAINING ON BOEING 737 AND TEN OF THEM PASSED THE BOEING PILOT CHECK, AND BOEING HAS CERTIFIED THIS SUCCESS TO NIGERIA AIRWAYS BY LETTER.

5. HOWEVER, CIVIL AVIATION DIVISION' S LICENSING AUTHORITY WILL NOT ISSUE A NIGERIAN RATING ON THE XDIFS OF BOEING' S CERTIFICATION; IT SAYS IT MUST HAVE FAA CERTIFICATION ALONG THE LINES OF LETTER ISSUED BY SEATTLE FAA OFFICE OF JUNE 9, 1971 SENT TO DIRECTOR OF NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION AND SIGNED BY DUNCAN R. SHAND. LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY SAYS THAT ON BASIS OF A SIMILAR LETTER IT WOULD ISSUE LICENSES FOR GROUP OF NIGERIAN APPLICANTS WHO ARE SUBJECT OF OBI' S LETTER. THIS LETTER WOULD BE ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, LAGOS, NIGERIA, AND SHOULD READ (WITH APPROPRIATE CHANGES FOR DATES, NAMES AND AIRCRAFT TYPES) AS FOLLOWS:
" IN REGARD TO YOUR REQUEST CONDUCT NIGERIA AIRWAYS BOEING 737 FLIGHT CHECKS AT THE BOEING COMPANY,
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 02965 121713 Z

SETTEL, WASHINGTON, THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT (NAME)
COMPLETED THE ORAL EXAMINATION ON (DATE) AND COMPLETED
THE FLIGHT CHECK ON (DATE). HE MET THE SKILL REQUIR-
EMENTS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS
6-.147 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A BOEING 737 TYPE RATING
TO THE HOLDER OF A U. S. AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT CERTIFICATE."

6. EMBASSY AND LOCAL FAA REP WONDER WHETHER FAA COULD
ISSUE SUCH A LETTER ON THE BASIS OF BOEING' S TRAINING
AND FLIGHT CHECKS AND THEREBY OBTAIN THE NEED FOR
AN FAA INSPECTOR TO VISIT NIGERIA TO CONDUCT ORAL AND
FLIGHT TESTS ALL OVER AGAIN THERE. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY
BE MOST EXPEDITIOUS AND LEAST COSTLY METHOD OF DEAL-
ING WITH PROBLEM.

7. IF FAA UNABLE TO ISSUE SUCH LETTERS ON BASIS OF
BOEING TRAINING AND CHECKS, THEN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
WILL WANT FAA TO SEND AN INSPECTOR OUT HERE AT EARLIEST
POSSIBLE DATE TO CONDUCT TESTS. ALTHOUGH MINISTRY
OF TRANSPORT HAS NOT SO STATED IN WRITING, THEY HAVE
TOLD US ORALLY THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY COSTS
OF VISIT BY INSPECTOR AND WE CAN OBTAIN THIS ASSURANCE
IN WRITING.

8. ACTION: SINCE WE WILL BE DISCUSSING FAA PROPOSAL
FOR ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION WITH TOP MOT OFFICIALS
ON APRIL 16, REQUEST A REPLY BEFORE WEEK-
END IF POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY REGARDING QUESTION WHETHER
FAA CAN
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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TAGS: ETRN, NI, ETRN
To: AF
FAA BRUSSELS
SECSTATE WASHDC
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